

# MBChB Open Day - Student Experience and Q&A

Chat firsthand with current MBChB students about their experiences; get all the information and insight you need from current Warwick doctors in training.



Hello and welcome to today's MBChB Student Experience Q&A Session!



In this session we'll be joined by current WMS MBChB medics:  
Abbie  
Aisling  
Maariyah  
plus Laura Cranshaw, Phase 1 Admin Lead, and members of the Medical School's Marketing and Events Team to help field any non-student experience type questions that may arise.



A reminder that you can view the Student Experience presentation here: <https://youtu.be/WZaOwAGDKxo>

## WMS Virtual MBChB Open Day - Student Experience Presentation

Our second year medic Abbie gives you a snapshot overview as life as an MBChB student at Warwick Medical School.



We'll do our best to answer all of your questions during today's session but if we don't get chance to answer everyone's question, you can email us at [wms.events@warwick.ac.uk](mailto:wms.events@warwick.ac.uk) and we'll get back to you as soon as we can.



Just to highlight, the questions you ask in today's session will be made available post-event so please do not share any personal data as part of this chat.



We're going to handover to Abbie now who's going to start off today's session, we hope you have a great session :)



Hi All !!! Fire any questions you have for us !!! However, we can't answer specifics about interviews as we signed non-disclosure agreements :)



Hi everyone, Aisling here. I'm another 2nd year like Abbie. I'm also someone with a non-science background if anyone has any questions about that.



Ideal - I was hoping to ask some questions specific to a Non-Science background approach (sorry Aisling!)



fire away



Where do students tend to live during their studies?



Hi ! So students tend to live in Coventry city centre, Earlsdon, Canley area :) It's good to be close to the university in the first year as you'll be on campus most of the time but after that it's up to you ! :)



We'll make the student experience presentation live in this session and you can play/pause/fast forward at your leisure!



How did you find the interview at Warwick compared to other unis?



I found the interview at Warwick much friendlier than some other universities. It's essentially an MMI style interview with 8 stations. The assessor asks you a question and follow up questions (I know some other universities don't do this) - so if you're answering the along the wrong track they guide you!



Are there additional resources available for students from a non-science background outside of the core curriculum to 'bridge' any gaps that there may be in our studies?



We have a student-run group called Non Science, where we have weekly evening seminars to review lecture material together. They also do pre-block teaching, which is usually a session on the Sunday afternoon before each of the 5 blocks starts to go over the key content together in advance. I used to attend it during my first year and found it really helpful, and I've been teaching at it during my second year.



What made you guys decide on Warwick rather than other medical schools? Is there anything in particular that helped you decide?



I chose Warwick because it was exclusively for grads, Coventry had good train links to London where a lot of my family are, and I had heard from people I'd spoken to about doing medicine that the Warwick grads they spoke to were good doctors



What made you guys decide on Warwick rather than other medical schools? Is there anything in particular that helped you decide?

It also has a big cohort and I liked the idea of doing a course that was specifically designed to be 4 years long instead of the model of merging you in with the undergrads like most other unis



How were the first few weeks of 1st year? Was it intense from the get go?



The year is split up into 5 blocks, and in my opinion block 1 (the first 5 weeks) was definitely the most intense. The first few weeks are very much Monday -Friday 9-5 - with Wednesday afternoons off so they do kind of push you in the deep end!  
It does help to get you into the routine of a GEP intense course though!



What made you guys decide on Warwick rather than other medical schools? Is there anything in particular that helped you decide?

Sorry I meant the Warwick grads they worked with



How did you all go about finding accommodation? Are they certified by the University?



Hi!

So people have gone about it different ways, we set up Facebook pages before you arrive so you can find others to houseshare with. People have used a mixture of private student letting, houses owned by the university (so going through the university accommodation) or there is the option of staying on campus in halls in the first year and being a residential tutor :)



What are your favourite aspects of the course, and what things do you think could be improved?



My favourite aspect was definitely the Fridays - with half a day of anatomy teaching and half a day of clinical skills teaching! It helps with getting to know your cohort and put into practise the anatomy/physiology theory we had been learning about the week prior.



Hello! Do you integrate much with the rest of the university or do people tend to stick with their friends in GEM?



Hi Kirsty, I joined a dance society on main campus and did a lot of shows and competitions with them, and also took over teaching classes in my second year. I think it's fairly unusual though - some of the undergrads from Warwick don't even realise there's a medical school!



Outside of going to non-medic societies, do you ever spend any time at all at the main Warwick Uni campus?



People tend to come onto campus to use the sports facilities and to grab food on the outlets but other than that, we don't really go onto main campus. You can become a residential tutor which is a live in job where you basically look after the freshers living in halls for a discounted rent rate :)



Do you think it matters if when you apply you are not someone who massively enjoys extracurricular activities?



I'm a person who very much does my extra-curriculars outside of the university setting so I understand what you're asking!  
I think it does still matter - although the course content may be the same, the teaching varies very much between universities. Warwick put a huge emphasis on anatomy and our anatomy teaching is incredible! Aside from that, there's also a difference in the way universities run CBL/PBL so look into the course at each uni



Do you think it matters if when you apply you are not someone who massively enjoys extracurricular activities?

If you're talking application wise, it doesn't matter hugely but it can be a way of demonstrating qualities that Warwick are looking for. It doesn't have to be a lot but being a student ambassador or helping to run a society can give you good talking points :)



From what I have read it sounds like students have a lot of opportunities to help their peers learn through additional seminars and lectures - do you find that the student-led approach is quite useful and do the different academic backgrounds of your peers provide more clarification with some subjects and more variety in the learning?



I definitely find the peer teaching model useful. The teachers find it easier to remember what it is like not to know what we don't know, and are really good at explaining concepts at the right level. Some of the teaching from the year above is really high quality. It also functions a bit like a support group and we spend time talking about what we found difficult that week in lectures / CBL, and it's reassuring to see that the teachers have made it through first year and now seem to have a grasp of things. The chance to teach yourself is also great as it's a good way to revise material from first year, and teaching experience is useful for later in medicine



How did you all go about finding accommodation? Are they certified by the University?

I found a house for first year by checking rightmove, zoopla, and openrent. I had made one friend during the application process, and we booked a few house viewings for the offer-holder open day. We found a really nice 4 bed, so then we posted on the student facebook groups and found 2 other 1st years who were looking for something similar.



How did you find the interview at Warwick compared to other unis?

I found it to be more directed towards being a good people person. Some of the stations took me by surprise but everyone on the day was so lovely and it was a really good experience



Hello! Do you integrate much with the rest of the university or do people tend to stick with their friends in GEM?

In second year we also get to choose a 'student selected component' where some of the options include interdisciplinary options. So you can meet non-medical students there!



How did you all go about finding accommodation? Are they certified by the University?

There is university accommodation but when I looked it was a lot more expensive than private accommodation and unaffordable if you're living off the student loan / bursary



What are some example SSCs that you have really enjoyed? Thanks!



I did 'the medical mind in literature and culture' - which was about how medicine is referenced in books and art. It did have a few other humanities students in it which meant I was able to branch out and make some new friends which I really enjoyed!



what is the student selected component - what options do you have for that?



I did a module looking at Middlemarch (book) for my SSC1 which was a nice break from Medicine and it meant I got to do some English literature which I hadn't done in a while :) For my SSC2 I got to choose my own research which I was really excited about as it meant I could do something I was genuinely interested in :)



Are there many research opportunities available during the Graduate Entry course if there is a subject that is specifically interesting?



So you do two student selected components (SSC). SSC1 is in second year and you get to pick a taught module from a long list. SSC2 is usually in third year (we did ours earlier because of Covid) and it's basically a research term where you do a piece of research, either something self-proposed or picked from a menu of available projects. There are occasionally posts on facebook / emails to the cohort about opportunities to help get involved in research, and if you were really keen and proactive you could contact people yourself, but it's not something I personally chose to do.



What are some example SSCs that you have really enjoyed? Thanks!

I did a module looking at Middlemarch (book) for my SSC1 which was a nice break from Medicine and it meant I got to do some English literature which I hadn't done in a while :) For my SSC2 I got to choose my own research which I was really excited about as it meant I could do something I was genuinely interested in :)



what is the student selected component - what options do you have for that?

Some examples of SSC1 modules are: Bodywork and Health, Counselling, Brain Injury and Rehabilitation, Mindfulness, Global Health, Clinical Ethics and Law, Infectious Disease and Tropical Medicine, Sleep Health and Society.



What are some example SSCs that you have really enjoyed? Thanks!

Some examples of SSC1 modules are: Bodywork and Health, Counselling, Brain Injury and Rehabilitation, Mindfulness, Global Health, Clinical Ethics and Law, Infectious Disease and Tropical Medicine, Sleep Health and Society.



Are there many research opportunities available during the Graduate Entry course if there is a subject that is specifically interesting?

A lot of the doctors will have research projects on-going so will want/ need medical student helpers :) I'm doing some neurosurgery projects at the moment and I chose to centre my SSC2 on something which I loved (social media). However, the biggest struggle is time, often the course has to come first but people do make it work and a fourth years has just been published as a named author on a paper !



Are there many research opportunities available during the Graduate Entry course if there is a subject that is specifically interesting?

We all did a systematic review for our SSC2 (again, cos Covid) and I got involved in a review that a research team already had planned, and I'll probably get a good publication out. So you can do that via the SSC2 rather than doing it as extra.



Is it common for people to already have publications when they enter WMS and does that give them an advantage?



No, it's definitely not common. I wouldn't say research is a big part of undergraduate medicine. When you apply for your first doctor jobs there's a maximum of 2 extra points available for publications and everything else carries a lot more weight. I think some people get academic foundation jobs without any publications sometimes as well. Remember a lot of people at Warwick have come straight from undergrad, or had a totally different career first, or studied something totally different first. I really wouldn't be worried about research at this stage.



What part of the Medical Ethics/ Soc Pop studies did you find most interesting/ surprising?



I really liked our lecturer. He is down to earth and I 90% went to the lectures because of them. In regard to topics, I actually really enjoyed the laws and ethics surrounding a child's right to refuse treatment and the grey line around when parents stop making decisions for their child.



Are there a lot of car parking spaces for students who wish to commute from further away?



There are spaces but like any other uni it's a bit competitive so people generally get here earlier to get spaces. There is a bigger car park a little away from the medical campus but there are shuttle busses to get you to the campus from there :)



Is it common for people to already have publications when they enter WMS and does that give them an advantage?  
Hi Sneha, in terms of the application stages we wouldn't consider whether applicants have a publication.



Hello - by any chance have any of you ever met a former Law student who has successfully entered the GEM programme



Yep !! There's one person in my year ! They are lovely and are doing well !



Hello - by any chance have any of you ever met a former Law student who has successfully entered the GEM programme  
They are actually our new BMA representative !



Hello - by any chance have any of you ever met a former Law student who has successfully entered the GEM programme  
There's usually a handful in each cohort. I know a few from Non Science and they're all doing fine.



That was a fantastic video- really enjoyed it!



Awwww thanks !



Do you know if there is support from the Uni with regards to students that have dependants (even if it is just a counselling service offering advice etc.)?



The University has a number of wellbeing support services <https://warwick.ac.uk/services/wss>, within the medical school you would also have a personal tutor if you need someone to speak to. Childcare commitments will also be considered in placement allocation.

**We're sorry, but the page you requested could not be found**

There is no page at this address: /services/wss



Do you get input into what area of the hospital you are placed in? Follow up question- which has been your favourite placement?



My favourite placement has been at the smaller hospital rather than the bigger hospital surprisingly ! They also have an amazing ice-cream bar :D



Hello, thank you for the presentation! Can I ask you what you found useful for preparing for the interviews?



So I sat down with the medic portal website and answered all the questions they had on there with all my experiences. That way I had an idea of what to talk about which each sort of question but nothing would sound scripted.



Do you get input into what area of the hospital you are placed in? Follow up question- which has been your favourite placement?

So first year, you go in for bedside teaching, where a doctor takes you to see a certain patient that they've approached in advance and you practice taking a history and doing an exam in a small group. In second year, we do 10 weeks each of medicine, surgery, and speciality, and instead of being placed in a specific part in the hospital, you can go to any of the wards or departments that you like. So for example during my medicine block I realised I was really bad at listening to chests so went to the respiratory ward one morning and asked if I could practice examining some of their patients.



Do you get input into what area of the hospital you are placed in? Follow up question- which has been your favourite placement?

You don't really get too much of an input into which hospital you go to as they are all fairly near and Covid has restricted some of the wards we get to go onto and the freedom of choosing the wards but otherwise it's all great :)



Hello, thank you for the presentation! Can I ask you what you found useful for preparing for the interviews?

I also really liked the 'Medical School Interviews' book with helping me structure my interviews



To Abbie - With regards to speciality, do you already have to know what you want to do or can you take your time in deciding?



I know I want to go into some form of Paeds but what branch I am not sure yet! You can fully take your time deciding - even beyond Medical School !!



Do you get input into what area of the hospital you are placed in? Follow up question- which has been your favourite placement?

I really enjoyed a day where I went on a ward round on the Acute Medical Unit. There was such a variety of patients and the consultant was really good at involving me and teaching as we were going along. I also got placed there as a support worker during Covid and really enjoyed it.



Are there any specialties or areas that anyone has found particularly engaging while on the course so far that you might consider pursuing as a specialist later in your career?



I tend to like whatever speciality I am currently on. However, I loved labour as I got to help deliver a baby so that was a highlight !



Is there a resource that you have found particularly useful during your studies? (I know a little about Anki but that's about as far as my knowledge goes so far!)



I tend to prefer things like videos (Armando Hasudungan/ osmosis etc) but people do like Anki as it helps with remembering vast amounts of information. I think it's just about your personal preferences :). You can't beat a good old sit down and draw ALL the anatomy session either :)



Are there any specialties or areas that anyone has found particularly engaging while on the course so far that you might consider pursuing as a specialist later in your career?

I find GP really useful - the teaching there is great!  
I also really like Cardiology but I feel like its very much dependent on your experience in the ward so varies!



Is there a resource that you have found particularly useful during your studies? (I know a little about Anki but that's about as far as my knowledge goes so far!)

I like Passmed and Osmosis. I never used them before I arrived though!



Is there a resource that you have found particularly useful during your studies? (I know a little about Anki but that's about as far as my knowledge goes so far!)

Khan academy was useful in first year as well



What is happening with your placements now due to covid?



We had a gap from March-end of July, and then we went back. They've shifted things around so that we should still graduate in time.



What is happening with your placements now due to covid?

We can still go in though we are now limited into hours we do. We are only allowed into certain wards (at least at my hospital) on certain days and we now wear scrubs into hospital. Otherwise, not too much has changed. Our course layout has been changed due to the impact of having 21 weeks off but Warwick have tried to minimise it's impact as we still have to complete GMC expectations.



Do you study a lot at the end of the 9-5 days or do you tend to focus it more for days like the Wednesday/weekends?  
How many extra-curricular activities/societies do you manage to get involved in alongside your studies?



In first year I used to do 9-5 on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. I would always make sure to give myself Wednesday off to try and prevent burnout!

But of course when it comes to exam season I would study at least a few hours every day.

I didn't get involved with many on campus societies but maintained my previous hobbies of gym/running for at least an hour a day!





Do you study a lot at the end of the 9-5 days or do you tend to focus it more for days like the Wednesday/weekends?  
How many extra-curricular activities/societies do you manage to get involved in alongside your studies?

During first year I used to study a lot in the evenings. I used to go to student seminars 1/2 nights a week in the evenings, and I would do work at my desk after dinner for a few hours every night I didn't have something on. I still did dance classes and yoga, and had a rule about never working after 9pm.



Do you study a lot at the end of the 9-5 days or do you tend to focus it more for days like the Wednesday/weekends?  
How many extra-curricular activities/societies do you manage to get involved in alongside your studies?

I personally ( I found this out the hard way) place all my non-medical things into my timetable first and then work around them ! Protects and makes me have downtime !



We've got just over 5 minutes' of this session left. If you've got any last minute questions you'd like to ask, please ask them now :) Alternatively, you can email [wms.events@warwick.ac.uk](mailto:wms.events@warwick.ac.uk) and we'll share your questions with our medics



What has been your favourite procedure you have shadowed/ performed so far?



Probably that one cannula I did successfully after failing about 20



I was wondering is there a healthcare finance (in tandem with Warwick Business School) and/or a medical technology society where students can nurture additional skills such as coding for medicine?



I'm not sure about the society but there is an SSC1 module that teaches to code an app with a healthcare focus if this is what you mean?



like say around exam times or if you generally do not understand a concept



If I was really struggling, I found that most lecturers were happy for me to email or pop into their office to ask for help. I also found that students helped each other a lot rather than being competitive, and there was a lot of support from students in the year above. My medic dad came round one evening and explained the pathophysiology of asthma to me because I was getting really confused



like say around exam times or if you generally do not understand a concept

I am the biggest culprit here. (As we are close to the end you can email the team and we can get back to you with a more detailed answer). However, if you are open and talk to the uni and be mature in your approach, WMS have amazing support systems and will help you through :)



is the maths used in medicine as complex as GCSE ?



Probably easier. I'm terrible at maths but perfectly competent at the maths required here.



is the maths used in medicine as complex as GCSE ?  
It's the same level as GCSE :) Think BBC Bitesize Level :)



Are there many Pharmacy graduates on the course?



there are a lot of pharmacy graduates on the course and they are very useful/handy in CBL when we are looking at medications and potential interactions that they may have on each other!



I was wondering is there a healthcare finance (in tandem with Warwick Business School) and/or a medical technology society where students can nurture additional skills such as coding for medicine?

Hi Sanjaey, there is a society called Warwick Surgical MedTech that might be of interest. You can find out more here: <https://warwick.ac.uk/fac/sci/med/study/ugr/mbchb/societies/smt/>

**Warwick Surgical MedTech**

Find out about the Warwick Surgical MedTech society at Warwick Medical School.

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<https://youtu.be/WZaOwAGDKxo>



What has been your favourite procedure you have shadowed/ performed so far?  
I take every opportunity to draw blood (venepuncture) as it helps increase my confidence in my abilities!



Since it's a 4 year course does that mean you have shorter summer holidays or other holiday times compared to undergrad timetables?



So we only have a summer holiday in first year and after that we tend to work straight through :) We have a couple of weeks for Christmas and two for summer in Third year but other than that, that's it really. However, we are allowed 7 days off for every 10 weeks so we can schedule in a break. Year 2 onwards is a little more relaxed than year one so you can find time off during the week :)



Thank you to everyone for taking the time to answer our questions (despite not being there in person you've been really clear) – it's been really useful and the video was excellent to understand life as a student.



Aww thanks Tom !! Thank you for engaging in the course :)



What other grad students are common aside from pharmacy?



Biomedicine is by far the most common! I've also met a few geography graduates and then there are a few obscure ones like music grads - who all do well in the course!



in terms of exams how do you build up confidence with them if you have not done them in years ?



Hi, I'd been out of education for 5 years before I came and to be honest I found it quite difficult getting back into the swing of doing exams again. The med school published a mock paper for us, and me and my housemate printed it off and did it together in exam conditions. Some of the students in the year above also put on a mock exam for us. The exam format was really different for me compared to my undergrad though, where I exclusively wrote essays in exams, so I needed to practice the different exam type as well.



in terms of exams how do you build up confidence with them if you have not done them in years ?

I did fine in the end though :)



Hi All !! That's it for now !! Thank you for asking so many questions , we wish you the best of luck on your applications and beyond ! If any questions have been left unanswered feel free to email in and the team can forward the questions :)



Thanks for coming everyone, I hope this was helpful



Thanks for your questions all! Good luck on your future medicine applications :)



Don't forget, you can still join the following sessions: Taster Session 1 - Physiology - 2.00pm - 2.45pm: [https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting\\_NTBlMwY4YtGtN2ZiYS00MjUxLTIllMmltMmYyZViMGZjNGZh%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%2209bacfbd-47ef-4465-9265-3546f2eaf6bc%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%2228d52864-e748-4eda-b0f4-7e568d7d9114%22%7d](https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_NTBlMwY4YtGtN2ZiYS00MjUxLTIllMmltMmYyZViMGZjNGZh%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%2209bacfbd-47ef-4465-9265-3546f2eaf6bc%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%2228d52864-e748-4eda-b0f4-7e568d7d9114%22%7d)

Taster Session 2 - Anatomy - 2.45pm - 3.30pm: [https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting\\_MjUwYTM1ZWEtMDMzMS00NjFjLWFhYmYtODI4MWZlMDU4MTcz%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%2209bacfbd-47ef-4465-9265-3546f2eaf6bc%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%2228d52864-e748-4eda-b0f4-7e568d7d9114%22%7d](https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_MjUwYTM1ZWEtMDMzMS00NjFjLWFhYmYtODI4MWZlMDU4MTcz%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%2209bacfbd-47ef-4465-9265-3546f2eaf6bc%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%2228d52864-e748-4eda-b0f4-7e568d7d9114%22%7d)

Taster Session 3 - Ethics - 3.30pm - 4.15pm: [https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting\\_MTK0MDE1YWItMzBkMS00Y2E4LWFiNGEtYmFlM2RhMzMwMmRk%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%2209bacfbd-47ef-4465-9265-3546f2eaf6bc%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%2228d52864-e748-4eda-b0f4-7e568d7d9114%22%7d](https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_MTK0MDE1YWItMzBkMS00Y2E4LWFiNGEtYmFlM2RhMzMwMmRk%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%2209bacfbd-47ef-4465-9265-3546f2eaf6bc%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%2228d52864-e748-4eda-b0f4-7e568d7d9114%22%7d)

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